

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-01

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P R 181652Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: KURDISH REFUGEES FROM IRAQ

REF: TEHRAN'S 2238

KUWAIT - POUCH BAGHDAD

1. KURDISH REFUGEES FROM IRAQ IN IRAN ARE STATUTORILY ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY TO THE U.S. UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 203(A)(7) INA. HOWEVER SEVERAL COMPLICATIONS ARE OBVIOUS IN THE USE OF 203(A)(7) FOR THE BENEFIT OF KURDS IN IRAN. THESE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. CONDITIONAL ENTRY APPLICATIONS MUST PRESENTLY BE SUBMITTED TO AN OFFICER OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AT BEIRUT OR ONE OF SEVERAL WESTERN EUROPEAN POSTS. HOWEVER, FINANCIAL AND DOCUMENTARY PROBLEMS MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT MANY KURDS COULD APPLY AT A POST WHERE  
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SUCH APPLICATIONS ARE NOW PROCESSED-

B. THE POSSIBILITY OF A SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY AN INS OFFICER COULD GO TO IRAN TO INTERVIEW APPLICANTS CAN BE EXPLORED. THIS ALTERNATIVE REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING: A FORMAL DETERMINATION COMMUNICATED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO INS THAT A REFUGEE SITUATION EXISTS IN IRAN WHICH MERITS SUCH ACTION; AGREEMENT OF INS TOGETHER WITH AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND INS PERSONNEL; AGREEMENT OF IRANIAN GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT SUCH PROCESSING TO BE DONE IN IRAN.

C. AT PRESENT CONDITIONAL ENTRY NUMBERS ARE AT A PREMIUM RESULTING FROM RECENT HEAVY DEMANDS FOR THEIR USE BY SOVIET REFUGEES IN WESTERN EUROPE, AND BACKLOGS NUMBERING IN THE THOUSANDS FOR APPLICANTS IN BEIRUT AND HONG KONG. WE CANNOT, THEREFORE, REASONABLY EXPECT AVAILABILITY OF MORE THAN ONE OR TWO HUNDRED CONDITIONAL ENTRY NUMBERS FOR KURDS DURING COMING YEAR. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY THAT USE OF 203(A)(7) COULD CAUSE DELUGE OF APPLICATIONS BEYOND INS CAPACITY TO HANDLE.

2. IF EMBASSY DESIRES WE WILL EXPLORE MORE FULLY WITH INS THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY 203(A)(7) PROGRAM IN IRAN.

3. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT 203(A)(7) SHOULD BE VIEWED AS ONLY A SMALL PART OF A GENERAL EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. THE DIRECTION IN WHICH RESETTLEMENT MIGHT GO CANNOT BE EASILY ASCERTAINED. THERE ARE BASICALLY THREE TYPES OF REFUGEE RE-ESTABLISHMENT: REPATRIATION; LOCAL INTEGRATION IN IRAN AND RESETTLEMENT IN THIRD COUNTRIES. THE LARGE NUMBER OF KURDISH REFUGEES INDICATES THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT OF SOME TYPE ONCE THE OUTLINES OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAQ AND IRAN AND ITS EFFECT ON THE KURDS BECOME MORE CLEAR. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THE MOST COMPETENT AGENCY FOR RESOLVING THE PROBLEM IS OFFICE OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR). THE UNHCR WAS DESIGNED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSISTING IN SITUATIONS SUCH AS EXISTS IN IRAN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOI HAS INFORMALLY APPROACHED UNHCR RECENTLY TO ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION  
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IN REFUGEE RELIEF FOR KURDS. UNHCR MAY BE HELPFUL TO GOI IN A PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OR INTEGRATION EFFORT AND IN ANY REPATRIATION. UNHCR ASSISTANCE CAN BE REQUESTED THROUGH ITS GENEVA HEADQUARTERS.

4. FOR BAGHDAD - DEPARTMENT WELCOMES COMMENTS FROM USINT BAGHDAD ON FOREGOING SITUATION AND SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** KURDISH REFUGEES FROM IRAQ  
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